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Application No. 09/881,925
Response to Final Office Action

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Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-92 (Canceled).

93. (Currently Amended) The An image forming apparatus
administration system, comprising: of claim 75,

an image forming apparatus, located in a first local network
and connected to the Internet through a first firewall server of
5 the first local network;

an administration apparatus, located in a second local
network and connected to the Internet through a second firewall
server of the second local network; and

at least one relaying server, located outside the first
10 local network and the second local network and connected to the
Internet;

wherein:

the image forming apparatus comprises a transmitting
section which transmits first information representing a state of
15 the image forming apparatus to the relaying server;

the relaying server comprises a relaying storage for
storing the first information;

the administration apparatus comprises an accessing
section which accesses the relaying server to obtain the first
20 information stored in the relaying storage;

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the administration apparatus comprises a transmitting section which transmits second information to the relaying server, said second information being stored in the relaying storage; and

25 the image forming apparatus comprises an accessing section which accesses the relaying server to obtain the second information from the relaying storage, and the image forming apparatus is controlled in accordance with the second information; and

30 wherein:

~~the at least one relaying server~~ image forming apparatus administration system comprises a plurality of relaying servers, said plurality of relaying servers comprising at least one child relaying server including a child relaying storage, and
35 at least one parent relaying server including a parent relaying storage;

 the accessing section of the image forming apparatus accesses the child relaying server through the Internet to obtain information stored in the child relaying storage, and the
40 transmitting section of the image forming apparatus transmits the first information to the child relaying server;

 the accessing section of the administration apparatus accesses the parent relaying server through the Internet to obtain information stored in the parent relaying storage, and the

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45 transmitting section of the administration apparatus transmits
the second information to the parent relaying server;
the parent relaying server comprises a transmitting
section which transmits the second information, which is
transmitted from the administration apparatus, to the child
50 relaying server, which stores the second information in the child
relaying storage; and
the child relaying server comprises a transmitting
section which transmits the first information, which is
transmitted from the image forming apparatus, to the parent
55 relaying server, which stores the first information in the parent
relaying storage.

94. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus
administration system of claim 93, wherein:

the second information comprises one of object device ID
information for identifying the image forming apparatus
5 corresponding to the second information, and child server ID
information for identifying the child relaying server; and

the child relaying server comprises an accessing section
which accesses the parent relaying server, and a determining
section which determines whether to obtain the second information
10 stored in the parent relaying storage, in accordance with the one
of the object device ID information and the child server ID

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information included in the second information, such that the child relaying server accesses the parent relaying server to obtain the second information when one of: the object device ID
15 information identifies the image forming apparatus accessing the child relaying server, and the child server ID identifies the child relaying server.

95. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus administration system of claim 93, wherein:

the transmitting section of the administration apparatus transmits, to the parent relaying server, updating relaying
5 information for rewriting a relaying program with an updating relaying program, said relaying program being provided for controlling the child relaying server; and

the child relaying server comprises an accessing section which accesses the parent relaying server to obtain the updating
10 relaying program and to rewrite the relaying program, stored in the child relaying server, with the updating relaying program.

96. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus administration system of claim 93, wherein:

the second information comprises transmission command information for instructing the image forming apparatus to
5 transmit the first information;

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the transmitting section of the image forming apparatus transmits the first information to the child relaying server in accordance with the transmission command information obtained through the child relaying server; and

10 the child relaying server transmits the first information, which is obtained from the image forming apparatus, to the parent relaying server.

97. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus administration system of claim 93, wherein:

the ~~at least one child relaying server~~ image forming apparatus administration system comprises a plurality of child
5 relaying servers;

the accessing section of the image forming apparatus accesses a predetermined first child relaying server of the plurality of child relaying servers; and

10 the accessing section of the image forming apparatus accesses one of an alternative child relaying server and the parent relaying server when it is not possible to access the first child relaying server.

98. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus administration system of claim 93, wherein:

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the ~~at least one parent relaying server~~ image forming
apparatus administration system comprises a plurality of parent
5 relaying servers;

the child relaying server comprises an accessing section
which accesses the parent relaying servers, and accesses a
predetermined first parent relaying server of the plurality of
parent relaying servers; and

10 the accessing section of the child relaying server accesses
an alternative parent relaying server when it is not possible to
access the first parent relaying server.

99. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus
administration system of claim 93, wherein the child relaying
server comprises an accessing section which accesses the parent
relaying server, and accesses the parent relaying server at a
predetermined timing.

100. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus
administration system of claim 99, wherein the predetermined
timing is at least one of: times at a predetermined time
interval, and a predetermined time of day.

Claims 101-115 (Canceled).

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116. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An image forming apparatus
administration system, comprising: of claim 103,

an image forming apparatus, located in a first local network
and connected to the Internet through a first firewall server of
5 the first local network;

an administration apparatus, located in a second local
network and connected to the Internet through a second firewall
server of the second local network; and

at least one relaying server, located outside the first
10 local network and the second local network and connected to the
Internet;

wherein:

the image forming apparatus comprises a transmitting
section which transmits first information representing a state of
15 the image forming apparatus to the relaying server;

the relaying server comprises relaying storage for
storing the first information; and

the administration apparatus comprises an accessing
section which accesses the relaying server to obtain the first
20 information stored in the relaying storage; and

wherein:

the at least one relaying server image forming
apparatus administration system comprises a plurality of relaying
servers, said plurality of relaying servers comprising

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25 at least one child relaying server including a child relaying storage, and at least one parent relaying server including a parent relaying storage;

the transmitting section of the image forming apparatus transmits the first information to the child relaying server;

30 the image forming apparatus comprises an accessing section which accesses the child relaying server through the Internet to obtain information stored in the child relaying storage;

the accessing section of the administration apparatus accesses the parent relaying server through the Internet to obtain information stored in the parent relaying storage;

the administration apparatus comprises a transmitting section which transmits second information to the parent relaying server;

40 the parent relaying server comprises a transmitting section which transmits the second information, which is transmitted from the administration apparatus, to the child relaying server, which stores the second information in the child relaying storage;

45 the child relaying server comprises a transmitting section which transmits the first information, which is transmitted from the image forming apparatus, to the parent

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relaying server, which stores the first information in the parent
relaying storage; and

50 the accessing section of the image forming apparatus
accesses the child relaying server to obtain the second
information, and the image forming apparatus is controlled in
accordance with the second information.

117. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus
administration system of claim 116, wherein:

the second information comprises one of object device ID
information for identifying the image forming apparatus
5 corresponding to the second information, and child server ID
information for identifying the child relaying server; and

the child relaying server comprises an accessing section
which accesses the parent relaying server, and a determining
section which determines whether to obtain the second information
10 stored in the parent relaying storage, in accordance with the one
of the object device ID information and the child server ID
information included in the second information, such that the
child relaying server accesses the parent relaying server to
obtain the second information when one of: the object device ID
15 information identifies the image forming apparatus accessing the
child relaying server, and the child server ID identifies the
child relaying server.

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118. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus administration system of claim 116, wherein:

the transmitting section of the administration apparatus transmits, to the parent relaying server, updating relaying information for rewriting a relaying program with an updating relaying program, said relaying program being provided for controlling the child relaying server; and

the child relaying server comprises an accessing section which accesses the parent relaying server to obtain the updating relaying program and to rewrite the relaying program, stored in the child relaying server, with the updating relaying program.

119. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus administration system of claim 116, wherein:

the second information comprises transmission command information for instructing the image forming apparatus to transmit the first information;

the transmitting section of the image forming apparatus transmits the first information to the child relaying server in accordance with the transmission command information obtained through the child relaying server; and

the child relaying server transmits the first information, which is obtained from the image forming apparatus, to the parent relaying server.

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120. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus administration system of claim 116, wherein:

the ~~at least one child relaying server~~ image forming apparatus administration system comprises a plurality of child relaying servers;

the accessing section of the image forming apparatus accesses a predetermined first child relaying server of the plurality of child relaying servers; and

the accessing section of the image forming apparatus accesses one of an alternative child relaying server and the parent relaying server when it is not possible to access the first child relaying server.

121. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus administration system of claim 116, wherein:

the ~~at least one parent relaying server~~ image forming apparatus administration system comprises a plurality of parent relaying servers;

the child relaying server comprises an accessing section which accesses the parent relaying servers, and accesses a predetermined first parent relaying server of the plurality of parent relaying servers; and

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10 the accessing section of the child relaying server accesses an alternative parent relaying server when it is not possible to access the first parent relaying server.

122. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus administration system of claim 116, wherein the child relaying server comprises an accessing section which accesses the parent relaying server, and accesses the parent relaying server at a predetermined timing.

123. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus administration system of claim 122, wherein the predetermined timing is at least one of: times at a predetermined time interval, and a predetermined time of day.

Claims 124-139 (Canceled).